REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 9, 2009. Claims 1, 5, 20 to 22, 25 to 29, 32, 34 and 36 to 39 are pending in the application, with Claims 23, 24, 30, 31, 33 and 35 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of any rejection applied against them, and with Claims 36 to 39 having been newly added. Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 20 to 22, 25 to 29 and 32 to 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0085942 (Narusawa), U.S. Publication. No. 2003/0142325 (Leslie) and U.S. Patent No. 6,947,158 (Kitamura).[1] Claims 23, 24, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Narusawa and Kitamura. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39 generally concern a print system including a printer arranged to connect to a host computer. Image data is read out from a recording medium of the printer. The printer includes an operation panel having thereon a print start button, a print setting button, and a preview display button. If the preview display button is depressed, the read-out image data is transmitted to the host computer.

According to aspects of Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39, a print setting event is generated and transmitted to the host computer if the print setting button is operated after the preview

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[1]Page 10 of the Office Action includes Claims 33 and 35 in the § 103(a) rejection over Narusawa and Kitamura, but also refers to Leslie. The Examiner confirmed in a telephone conversation that Claims 33 and 35 should have been included in the first § 103(a) rejection over Narusawa, Kitamura, and Leslie.

display button is once depressed, and a print start event is generated and transmitted to the host computer if the print start button is operated after the preview display button is once depressed.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to generate different events in accordance with operations of different buttons on the operation panel of the printer (other than the preview display button) once the preview display button is depressed. Accordingly, functionality of the host computer such as image display updating and print data generation can ordinarily be controlled from the printer once the preview display button has been once depressed, in accordance with operations of the different buttons on the operation panel of the printer. In contrast, if one of the buttons on the operation panel is depressed before the preview display button is once depressed, the printer simply can act as a stand-alone printer, instead of transmitting events to the host computer (see, e.g., Claim 5). Thus, according to Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39, it is ordinarily possible to allow a user to choose to operate a host computer from an operation panel of the printer, in order to, for example, take advantage of superior display capabilities of the host computer.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system which includes a printer arranged to connect to a host computer via a communication interface. The printer includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a recording medium on which the image data is recorded, an operation panel having thereon a print start button, a print setting button, and a preview display button, a printer engine for performing printing, and a print control unit for, in response to depression of the print start button, generating print data from the image data read out by the read-out unit in accordance with print settings provided based on operation of the print setting button, and for causing the print engine to print the generated print data. The printer further includes a print setting event transmitting unit for

transmitting the image data read out by the read-out unit to the host computer via the communication interface if the preview display button of the operation panel is depressed, and for generating a print setting event and transmitting the generated print setting event to the host computer, if the print setting button is operated after the preview display button is once depressed. In addition, the printer includes a print start event transmitting unit for generating a print start event and transmitting the generated print start event to the host computer, if the print start button is operated after the preview display button is once depressed. The printer also includes a receiving unit for receiving print data which the host computer transmits to the printer on the basis of the print start event transmitted by the print start event transmitting unit. The print control unit controls the printer engine to print the print data received by the receiving unit. The host computer includes a display unit for receiving the image data transmitted by the print setting event transmitting unit in response to depression of the preview display button, and displaying the received image data on a display apparatus. The host computer also includes an update unit for discriminating the print setting event transmitted to the host computer by the print setting event transmitting unit and updating the image data displayed on the display apparatus on the basis of the discriminated print setting event. In addition, the host computer includes a control unit for discriminating the print start event transmitted by the print start event transmitting unit to the host computer, and for generating the print data from the image data transmitted to the host computer by the print setting event transmitting unit and transmitting the generated print data to the printer via the communication interface.

Independent Claim 25 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 1.

Independent Claim 38 is directed to a printer arranged to connect to a host computer via a communication interface. The printer includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a recording medium on which the image data is recorded, and an operation panel having thereon a print start button, a print setting button, and a preview display button. The printer also includes a printer engine for performing printing. The printer further includes a print control unit for, in response to depression of the print start button, generating print data from the image data read out by the read-out unit in accordance with print settings provided based on operation of the print setting button, and for causing the print engine to print the generated print data. In addition, the printer includes a print setting event transmitting unit for transmitting the image data read out by the read-out unit to the host computer via the communication interface if the preview display button of the operation panel is depressed, and for generating a print setting event and transmitting the generated print setting event to the host computer, if the print setting button is operated after the preview display button is once depressed. The printer also includes a print start event transmitting unit for generating a print start event and transmitting the generated print start event to the host computer, if the print start button being operated after the preview display button is once depressed. The printer further includes a receiving unit for receiving print data which the host computer transmits to the printer on the basis of the print start event transmitted by the print start event transmitting unit. The print control unit controls the printer engine to print the print data received by the receiving unit.

Independent Claim 39 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the printer of Claim 38.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of generating a

print setting event and transmitting the print setting event from a printer to a host computer if a print setting button on the printer is operated after the preview display button on the printer is once depressed, and generating a print start event and transmitting the print start event to the host computer if a print start button of the printer is operated after the preview display button of the printer is once depressed.

Page 4 of the Office Action concedes that Narusawa does not disclose or suggest a transmission unit in the printer. Applicants submit that it logically follows that Narusawa also does not disclose or suggest generating a print setting event and transmitting the print setting event from a printer to a host computer if a print setting button on the printer is operated after the preview display button on the printer is once depressed, and generating a print start event and transmitting the print start event to the host computer if a print start button of the printer is operated after the preview display button of the printer is once depressed.

Leslie is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Narusawa. As understood by Applicants, Leslie is directed to a system in which a computer transmits document data and print conditions to a printer, which generates a print preview in accordance with the abilities of the printer. The print preview is then transmitted back to the host computer. See Leslie, Abstract and paragraph [0041].

Nevertheless, Leslie is not seen to disclose or suggest generating specific events in accordance with operation of specific buttons on an operation panel of the printer and transmitting the events to the host computer, much less doing so under the condition that a preview display of the printer is (previously) once depressed. Therefore, Leslie is also not seen to disclose or suggest generating a print setting event and transmitting the print setting event from a printer to a host computer if a print setting button on the printer is operated after the

preview display button on the printer is once depressed, and generating a print start event and transmitting the print start event to the host computer if a print start button of the printer is operated after the preview display button of the printer is once depressed.

Kitagawa has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Narusawa and Leslie. In that regard, Kitagawa is not even seen to disclose or suggest generating events to be transmitted to a host computer in accordance with operations of buttons on an operation panel of the host computer.

Accordingly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest generating a print setting event and transmitting the print setting event from a printer to a host computer if a print setting button on the printer is operated after the preview display button on the printer is once depressed, and generating a print start event and transmitting the print start event to the host computer if a print start button of the printer is operated after the preview display button of the printer is once depressed.

Furthermore, and with particular regard to Claims 1 and 25, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the corresponding functions of the host computer performed in accordance with the events transmitted from the printer as described above, including, for example, updating displayed image data in accordance with a discriminated print setting event, or generating and transmitting print data in accordance with a discriminated print start event. In that regard, page 4 of the Office Action concedes that Narusawa does not disclose details of the functionality of the host computer.

In view of the above, independent Claims 1, 25, 38 and 39 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Turning to a formal matter, it is respectfully requested that the next Office communication acknowledge Applicants' claim to foreign priority, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document. A certified copy of the priority application was filed on December 15, 2003, and is available in the Image File Wrapper for this application.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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